

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Color Atlas of Dermatology**, G. M. Levene and C. D. Calnan. Year Book Medical Publishers, Inc., 1974. (368 pp. \$20.00)

*Color Atlas of Dermatology*, by G. M. Levene and C. D. Calnan, is one of a gradually expanding series of color atlases published by Year Book Medical Publishers, Inc. The authors state that the purpose of this 368 page work is "to help medical students, practitioners and those starting training in dermatology to become acquainted with the distinctive features of skin diseases." All common disorders are illustrated and many less frequent diseases are also included.

The *Atlas* is organized into 21 separate categories with a short introduction to each of the different types of cutaneous reaction patterns to be described. The many sections are frequently cross-referenced, and the index is detailed and accurate.

A useful atlas should present typical and well-focused pictures of the entity in question, have excellent color reproduction, be well organized, and come accompanied by a minimum of rhetoric. The *Color Atlas of Dermatology* fulfills those aims admirably well. With almost no exceptions all pictures are sharp and show what they are stated to show. Explanatory text is well stated, brief, and accurate, and the price is reasonable for such a large number of color photographs.

There are some minor problems which come to mind as I read through the *Atlas*: the rounded, dome-shaped illustration of a papule (p. 11) would not be typical of the lichenoid lesions of lichen planus; some jargon is inexact or may not be understood by all readers (i.e., "bleb," "sago grains"); scraping for scabetic mites is best accomplished with oil rather than KOH (p. 140); the larvae of creeping eruption creep in the epidermis, not the dermis (p. 148); blisters caused by ischemic damage secondary to pressure can be seen in diverse situations other than barbiturate coma (p. 176); vitiligo should not be considered an inflammatory disease (p. 186); and, the terminology of seborrheic and senile keratoses must be more clearly delineated for the uninitiated (p. 232).

The *Color Atlas of Dermatology* is a well-produced, thoughtfully organized, and carefully written work which will benefit all those interested in excellent pictures of most cutaneous disorders. It will be of particular value to those learning to recognize skin lesions and as a useful teaching aid in hospitals and clinics.

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**Agents of Bacterial Disease**, Albert S. Klainer, M.D. and Irving Geis. Harper & Row, Publishers, Inc., Hagerstown, Maryland, 1973. (188 pp. \$9.95)

*Agents of Bacterial Disease* deserves a special

award for didactic excellence. The incisively chosen and perfectly documented illustrations are well balanced by an equally succinct text. The combination makes for highly efficient student learning, and belongs in all student libraries. Although not written for the dermatologist (e.g., exclusion of *Corynebacterium acnes*), dermatology residents seeking review will find this a refreshing start, which must then be supplemented with standard texts.

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**Annual Review of Allergy 1973**, Claude Albee Frazier, M.D. (ed.). Medical Examination Publishing Company, Inc., Flushing, New York, 1974. (535 pp. \$15.00)

This volume sets out to review the recent literature in allergy in a manner useful to both the practicing allergist and the research worker. It comprises 30 chapters dealing with topics ranging from "The history of ecologic mental illness" through a wide variety of more mundane ones to "Atopy in the canine." The wide range of topics reflects the present-day allergist's desire to return to the original sense of the word "allergy" as referring to any state of altered immunologic responsiveness and not to limit it to the atopic diseases. There is considerable variation among the formats chosen for the various chapters. In allergy, where modern, scientific understanding of events at the cellular level has to vie with traditional forms of treatment whose mechanism is often poorly understood, such variation is inevitable and indeed appropriate.

The result is like the vicar's egg: parts of it are very good. In particular, the reviews of tumor immunology by Futrell (which covers much more than tumor immunology) and of transplantation immunology by Lundgren and Groth are excellent, scholarly reviews of the recent literature. Dockhorn's review of clinical immunology (which he takes to refer principally to immunologic deficiency states) contains excellent, brief, critical abstracts of 95 well-selected recent contributions. The review of recent advances in diagnosis by Massie, Davis, and Johnson follows a particularly useful format: after a brief initial summary, very detailed and conscientious abstracts of a hundred recent contributions are presented with clearly separated editorial comments. An entirely different but equally appropriate format characterizes the very extensive review of infiltrative hypersensitivity lung diseases by Lake, Salvaggio, and Buechner, which is a connected and well-illustrated treatise documented by 165 references to the recent literature.

Two contributions clearly fail to meet the standards appropriate to such a volume. The introduc-